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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP**

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INTELLOFAX 5

COUNTRY Syria/Lebanon

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Dissatisfaction of Assyrians  
in the Jazirah  
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INFO.

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT SO-4721

1. It is believed that a delegation of reportedly pro-French Assyrians, living in the Jazirah (Northern Syria), recently came to Beirut where they conferred with Cardinal Tappuni, Syrian Catholic Patriarch. The delegation included:  
  
Yashoy Hanna Ibrahim  
Addua Faduli  
George (Jirjius) Jaburi  
Sa'id Zuhdi
2. The Assyrians complained, as they had on previous occasions, of the harsh treatment meted out to them by the Syrian Government and of the hostile attitude displayed by the Beduin tribesmen. As a result of these conditions, the delegates expressed a desire to immigrate to Lebanon.
3. Tappuni reportedly stated that two weeks previously he had asked Premier Riyad Sulh, through George Haymari, Chef de Cabinet of the President of Lebanon, to allow the Assyrians living in the Jazirah to move to Lebanon. Sulh avoided a reply.
4. In addition, Mgr. Antun Arida, Maronite Patriarch in Lebanon, had requested President Bisharah Khuri to permit the entry of these Assyrians. Khuri had answered that the Lebanese Moslems, fearing an increased Christian population, would protest.
5. Cardinal Tappuni is believed to have advised the Assyrian delegation to wait until the end of the year, by which time conditions would probably improve.
6. On the evening of 11 July, following the delegation's visit to him, Tappuni called on Daniel Solod, Soviet Minister to the Levant, and described to him the position of the Assyrians in northern Syria. Solod assured Tappuni of his help, and offered to assist the Assyrians in immigrating to the Soviet Union if they so desired.

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